

were no strangers to prejudice or discrimination either; they bore the brunt of the "Know-Nothing" nativist movement, and many felt the sting of signs posted by hiring employers that read: "No Irish Need Apply."

Characteristically, however, Irish-Americans proved to be more durable than the forces of bigotry and distrust—even the nickname "the fighting Irish," once used in derision, gradually became an expression of admiration and pride. With faith in Almighty God, with a strength rooted in love of family, and with full confidence in the promise of America, Irish immigrants and their descendants steadily achieved social and economic advancement. Well recognizing the virtues of democracy, Irish-Americans organized effectively at the grass-roots level and greatly increased their voice in government during the early part of this century. Moreover, as they had done since the earliest days of our Republic, the Irish home, school, and church together affirmed the importance of faith, industry, and learning. Thus, today we celebrate many outstanding contributions and achievements of Irish-Americans in virtually every sphere of our national life.

Although it spans more than three centuries of American history, the Irish-American heritage continues to flourish on this soil—as perennial as the "wearing o' the green." Annual Saint Patrick's Day events in the United States resonate with a deep and earnest affinity between the American and Irish peoples. In recent years, renewed immigration from Ireland has underscored the strong ties between our two countries.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 350, has designated March 1992 as "Irish-American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 1992 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I invite all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6409 of March 5, 1992

National Day of Prayer, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We live during a time of great and historic change, a time that has seen the rise of newly democratic nations and the fall of once firmly entrenched totalitarian regimes. While such progress is cause for optimism and hope, the dramatic pace of global developments and the uncertainty they generate can also leave us with a faint sense of anticipation and unease. As we seek to chart a proper course in a world that is changing by the hour, our observance of a National Day of Prayer

reminds us that we can always place our trust in the steady, unfailing light that is the love of God.

Time and again, Scripture tells us of the constancy of the Almighty. Indeed, His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, wrote the Psalmist, and His dominion endures throughout all generations.

Our ancestors trusted in the faithfulness of the Almighty, and they frequently turned to Him in humble, heartfelt prayer. When they finally reached these shores, the early settlers gave thanks for their very lives—and for the promise of freedom in a new land. Members of the Continental Congress began their deliberations with prayer, and later when members of that same body pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in support of our Nation's independence, they did so "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

Today we know that their trust was well placed; their faith, richly rewarded. The great American experiment in liberty and self-government has not only endured but prospered. The triumph of freedom in this country has inspired the advance of human rights and dignity around the globe.

Although much has transpired since our ancestors prayed for divine mercy and direction, this occasion calls us to remember, as did Ben Franklin and his contemporaries, "that God governs in the affairs of men." The One to whom George Washington turned when he knelt in the snow at Valley Forge is the same God who heard the prayers of President Lincoln nearly a century later during the darkest hours of the Civil War. While our needs today may be different, we are no less dependent on the help of Almighty God. Therefore, let us likewise seek His forgiveness, strength, and guidance.

Whatever our individual religious convictions may be, each of us is invited to join in this National Day of Prayer. Indeed, although we may find our own words to express it, each of us can echo this timeless prayer of Solomon, the ancient king who prayed for, and received, the gift of wisdom:

The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us; so that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways . . . that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.

Since the approval of the joint resolution of the Congress on April 17, 1952, calling for the designation of a specific day to be set aside each year as a National Day of Prayer, recognition of such a day has become a cherished annual event. Each President since then has proclaimed a National Day of Prayer annually under the authority of that resolution, continuing a tradition that dates back to the Continental Congress. By Public Law 100-307, the first Thursday in May of each year has been set aside as a National Day of Prayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 7, 1992, as a National Day of Prayer. I urge all Americans to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, in thanksgiving to Almighty God. On this occasion, let us also pray for His continued blessing upon our families and Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6410 of March 10, 1992

Girl Scouts of the United States of America 80th Anniversary Day

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Since Juliette Gordon Low founded the first troop on March 12, 1912, millions of Girl Scouts have embarked on great adventures in learning—adventures that have combined the joys of self-discovery with the rewards of friendship and voluntary service to others. By fostering the social, spiritual, and intellectual development of its members, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has not only helped them to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood but also enriched our communities and country.

From the Daisy and Brownie levels to the ranks of Junior, Cadette, and Senior, participation in the Girl Scouts is about becoming a good neighbor and citizen while at the same time striving to reach one's fullest potential. The fundamentals of scouting—and life—are summarized in the Girl Scout Promise, which states:

On my honor, I will try
To serve God and my country
To help people at all times
And to live by the Scout Law.

The Scout Law, in turn, upholds virtues such as honesty, fairness, self-respect, and respect and consideration for others. The first five words of the Law, "I will do my best," emphasize that virtually every aim of scouting is rooted in a commitment to excellence.

Learning is a key to excellence, of course, and one way that Girl Scouts gain valuable knowledge and experience is through voluntary service to others. Every Girl Scout has pledged "to help where I am needed . . . [and] to protect and improve the world around me." Hence, Girl Scouts serve as shining Points of Light in their communities; each year, they devote thousands of hours to activities such as visiting residents of nursing homes, collecting food and clothing for the poor, or planting and caring for trees. Moreover, the Girl Scout organization, which includes more than 200,000 troops across the United States, is staffed almost entirely by adult volunteers.

By affirming the importance of serving others and by upholding the traditional moral and spiritual values on which this great Republic rests, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has become known as an "all-American" organization. Yet through its membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. is part of a global family of young women and adults who profess the timeless ideals contained in the Scout Promise and Scout Law.